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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF THE
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS-CUM SECRETARY
(DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT & WILD LIFE)
GANGTOK

No. 634/F.E.W.M. D. **Dated : 01.08.2007**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas the National Working Plan Code 2004 emphasizes on the need to make working plan prescriptions on the basis of principles of sustainable forest management duly assessing the dependence of villagers on the forests for their livelihood needs and also keeping in mind the ecological, environmental and socio-economic dimension in the objectives of management, the following guidelines are issued for preparation of working plans.

1. During preparation of working plans National Working Plan Code 2004 shall be strictly followed.
2. Guidelines and policy decisions in respect of participatory management of natural resources like Joint Forest Management, Eco-Development and Watershed Development shall be incorporated in the Working Plans.
3. To assess the dependence of villagers on the forests for their livelihood needs, assistance of sociologist/ economist/socio-economists/recognized institutes may be taken.
4. While preparing the working plan the Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) and Divisional Forest Officer (Working Plan) will hold consultations with revenue authorities and Panchayats about the expectations of the forest dependent people and try to accommodate the same to the extent that they are in keeping with the silvicultural needs of forest managements. It is mandatory to consult the Panchayati Raj institutions and Land Revenue authorities during the preparation of working plan. The modus operandi of consultation may be decided by the Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial).
5. All the consultations have to be recorded in writing.
6. There should be separate chapters on the management of forests other than Reserve Forests like, Khasmal and Gorucharan forests. Their management and prescriptions should be in conformity with the purpose for which they have been carved out and defined.
7. The new emerging management issues like conservation of rivers, high altitude lakes, snowy mountains/ glaciers, swamps/wetlands, hot-springs, medicinal plants/non-timber forest produce, eco-tourism etc. must be given due thought, attention and emphasis with separate chapters assigned to each of them.

8. The water resources are very important and most of the water resources fall in forest areas and therefore, a special chapter with participatory management approach on water resource management shall find a place in the working plan.
9. The prescriptions should, besides improving the health of the forests, be people oriented and aim at poverty alleviation of the local inhabitants through a variety of activities associated with the management of forests.
10. The objectives of management of the Khasmal forests should be to meet the requirement of timber for construction, small timber for agricultural implements and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants through JFMCs/Gram Panchayat members which will provide supplementary income to the adjoining villagers.
11. The objectives of management of the Gorucharans should be to fulfill the grazing and fodder/forage needs of the cattle belonging to the local/adjoining population. The prescription of the working plan for Gorucharan forests should be such that these lands should not at all be allowed to be used or diverted for any other purpose than the purpose for which it was carved out.
12. The rivers of Sikkim have been defined as forest lands and the river banks have been under the administrative control of Forest Department. These river banks have been serving as the main source of construction materials like stones, sand and stone chips for all constructional needs of the Government and the people at large. These river-beds have, of late been the main source of earning forest revenue besides providing employment to thousands of wage earners. Therefore, the working plan should also have a separate chapter assigned for management of rivers, river-banks and river-beds. The prescriptions should clearly define the methods of quarrying and conservation of rivers and river-beds/banks etc.
13. For approving working plans/working schemes a Committee at State level has already been approved with Principal CCF-cum-Secretary Forests as its Chairman. For making the exercise of preparation of working plan more broad based with full participation of the relevant stakeholders, the following Standing Committee at the District level will be constituted.

    a. Zilla Adhyaksha – Chairman
    b. District Collector – Member
    c. District Development Officer – Member
    d. Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife) – Member
    e. Divisional Forest Officer (Land Use & Environment) – Member
    f. Divisional Forest Officer (Social Forestry) – Member
    g. Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) – Member Secretary
    h. Any other member which Zilla Adhyaksha may like to include.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

D. B. Shrestha, IFS
Principal CCF-cum-Secretary Forests
Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department

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